

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00

RSC-01 L-03 EB-11 IGA-02 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /086 W

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R 130745 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8495

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0366

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : EAID GV US

SUBJECT : PL-480 AND AMERICAN ASSISTANCE

DAKAR FOR ADO

MONROVIA FOR AG ATT

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SEKOUTOURE ON MARCH 10, I INFORMED HIM THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH HIS GOVERNMENT ON LATEST PL-480 PROGRAM, WITH SIGNING PLANNED TENTATIVELY FOR MARCH 15.

2. TOURE EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE AND HOPED THAT BADLY-NEEDED FOOD ITEMS COULD BEGIN ARRIVING SOONEST. TOURE SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH NEWS OF EXPECTED SIGNING BECAUSE HE WAS GETTING THE IMPRESSION AND HAD BEGUN TO TELL MEMBERS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE THAT APPARENTLY US WAS DEVELOPING SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT GUINEA AND WAS CHANGING POLICY OF GROWING FRIENDSHIP WHICH HAD BEEN DEVELOPING. SAID WHILE HE DID NOT HAVE ANY FACTS, THIS IMPRESSION WAS BASED ON LONG DELAY IN CONCLUDING EVEN AGREEMENT FOR REDUCED AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.

3. I ASSURED TOURE THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN US POLICY OR IN OUR DESIRE FOR FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH GUINEA. DELAYS WERE DUE TO DIFFICULTY IN DECIDING ON THE PROGRAM THIS
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YEAR AND THEN TO BUREAUCRATIC RED TAPE THAT INEVITABLY OCCURS. TOURE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO LEARN THAT WHILE PROGRAMS OF SOME COUNTRIES HAD BEEN ELIMINATED AND OTHERS WERE AT FIXED DOLLAR LEVEL IN FACE OF RISING PRICES, GUINEA' S PROGRAM HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO REMAIN AT AN ESTABLISHED COMMODITY LEVEL.

4. TOURE SAID HE STILL CONSIDERED THAT YEARLY FOOD ASSISTANCE WAS NOT BEST WAY TO APPROACH AID AND THAT INSTEAD THERE SHOULD BE AN ESTABLISHED SHORT- TERM PLAN WHICH WOULD LEAD TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE NEED FOR ASSISTANCE. HE SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED HIS GOVERNMENT TO PREPARE A NUMBER OF PROJECTS FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TO BE PRESENTED TO ME SHORTLY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE FIVE- YEAR PLAN. ONCE THESE PROJECTS WERE CARRIED OUT, THE NEED FOR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE SHOULD NO LONGER EXIST. I EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT' S VIEW ON AID BEING A TEMPORARY MATTER TO HELP LEAD TO SELF- SUFFICIENCY. I TOLD HIM I LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE PROPOSED PROJECTS AND WOULD REQUEST THE RDO TO COME TO GUINEA FOR DISCUSSIONS AS SOON AS THEY ARE RECEIVED.

5. I SUGGESTED THAT IN PLANS FOR INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION GUINEA SHOULD GIVE CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE WORK BEING DONE BY WARDA AND THE IMPORTANCE THIS COULD HAVE FOR INCREASED RICE PRODUCTION IN WEST AFRICA. TOURE SAID HE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TOLBERT ON THIS SUBJECT AND HAD INDICATED TO THE MINISTER CONCERNED HIS APPROVAL OF GUINEA' S PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITY OF WARDA IN THE FUTURE.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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